

# Year in Review **The Balkans**







## Bosnia

**T**HE year 1999 began with U.S. forces remaining in Bosnia-Herzegovina as part of the NATO Stabilization Force, which has enforced peace among the former warring factions there since December 1995. Under the command of GEN Montgomery C. Meigs, commander of U.S. Army, Europe, SFOR continued its mission to deter or prevent a resumption of hostilities and new threats to peace, and to promote a climate in which the peace process can continue to move forward. Operation Joint Forge continues to build on the successes of operations Joint Endeavor and Joint Guard.

On Aug. 4, the 10th Mountain Division assumed command of the Multi-National Division (North) and Task Force Eagle from the 1st Cavalry Div., which had been in Bosnia since June 1998.

In an Oct. 18 ceremony in Sarajevo, Meigs handed over command of SFOR to LTG Ronald Adams, deputy commanding general of NATO's Land Forces-Central Europe, ending a three-year period in which the USAREUR commanding general was stationed in Sarajevo, dual-hatted as commander of SFOR.

More than 5,000 soldiers from the active Army, Army National Guard and Army Reserve currently serve in Task Force Eagle. As the new year begins, NATO plans call for a restructuring of MND(N) that will see several camps closed and the American presence in Bosnia reduced. Additionally, the number of allied units in MND(N) will be reduced, with the Norwegian Battalion, the Swedish Battalion and part of the Finnish Battalion leaving Bosnia-Herzegovina, and elements of the Polish Battalion relocating. The Turkish Brigade and the Russian Separate Airborne Brigade will also do some minor restructuring. The entire process will take place slowly over the first few months of 2000, according to official reports.

